

§ 825.15

and the Commandant's decision on appeal. It does not include intra-agency staff memoranda provided as advice to the Commandant to aid in his decision.

§ 825.15 Issues on appeal.

The only issues that may be considered on appeal are:

- (a) A finding of a material fact is erroneous;
- (b) A necessary legal conclusion is without governing precedent or is a departure from or contrary to law or precedent;
- (c) A substantial and important question of law, policy, or discretion is involved; or
- (d) A prejudicial procedural error has occurred.

§ 825.20 Briefs in support of appeal.

(a) Within 20 days after the filing of a notice of appeal, the appellant must file, in the same manner as prescribed for the notice in § 825.5, a brief in support of the appeal.

(b) This document shall set forth:

- (1) The name and address of the appellant;
- (2) The number and a description of the license, certificate, document, or register involved;
- (3) A summary of the charges affirmed by the Commandant as proved;
- (4) Fact findings by the Commandant disputed by the appellant;
- (5) Specific statements of errors of laws asserted;
- (6) Specific statements of any abuse of discretion asserted; and
- (7) The relief requested.

(c) Objection based upon evidence of record need not be considered unless the appeal contains specific record citation to the pertinent evidence.

(d) When a brief has been filed by appellant under this section, the Coast Guard may, within 15 days of service of the brief on the Commandant, submit to the Board a reply brief.

(e) If a party who has filed a notice of appeal does not perfect the appeal by the timely filing of an appeal brief, the Board may dismiss the appeal on its own initiative or on motion of the Coast Guard.

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§ 825.25 Oral argument.

(a) If any party desires to argue a case orally before the Board, he should request leave to make such argument in his brief filed pursuant to § 825.20.

(b) Oral argument before the Board will normally not be granted unless the Board finds good cause for such argument. If granted, the parties will be advised of the date.

§ 825.30 Action by the Board.

(a) On review by the Board, if no reversible error is found in the Commandant's decision on appeal, that decision will be affirmed.

(b) On review by the Board, if reversible error is found in the Commandant's decision on appeal, the Board may:

- (1) Set aside the entire decision and dismiss the charges if it finds the error incurable; or
- (2) Set aside the order, or conclusions, or findings of the Commandant and remand the case to him for further consideration if it finds the error curable.

(c) When a matter has been remanded to the Commandant under paragraph (b) of this section, the Commandant may act in accordance with the terms of the order of remand, or he may, as appropriate, further remand the matter to the administrative law judge of the Coast Guard who heard the case, or to another administrative law judge of the Coast Guard, with appropriate directions.

§ 825.35 Action after remand.

When a case has been remanded under § 825.30, a party shall retain all rights of review under 46 CFR part 5 and this part, as applicable.

§ 825.40 Ex parte communications.

(a) As used in this section:

Board decisional employee means a Board Member or employee who is or who may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process of the proceeding;

Ex parte communication means an oral or written communication not on the public record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all parties is